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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,766	11/26/2003	Klaus Klingenbeck-Regn	P03,0471	9678
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SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT 6600 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-6473			EXAMINER	
			LAMPRECHT, JOEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3737	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/723,766	Applicant(s) KLINGENBECK-REGN ET AL.
	Examiner JOEL M. LAMPRECHT	Art Unit 3737

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4, 7-15, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4, 7-15, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1-4, 7-15,17-18 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, there should be a semi-colon at the end of the first paragraph on page 3 of the claims. In claim 2, line 3, the word least is misspelled as "lease" and claim 2 does not seem to set forth any further structural limitations as claim 1 sets forth the simultaneous presentation of the x-ray and OCT image. Claim 8 is objected to as depending from a canceled claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-4, 7-15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pitris et al (US 6,564,087 B1) in view of Strommer et al (US 2002/0049375 A1) and in further view of Hastings et al (US 2002/0103430 A1). Pitris et al disclose the use of an OCT image catheter for introduction into the body including OCT fiber bundling for image acquisition and guidance, the OCT catheter including fibers adapted to image in a rotational scanning pattern (Col 11 Line 35-Col 12 Line 20), and the system is described as being integrated with an imaging system such as either an x-ray system or an MR imaging system for guidance and control.

Pitris et al do not disclose the specific integration methods of an x-ray imaging system with their system, nor do they disclose the use of a medical-field generating element disposed in the tip of the catheter system for interacting with the catheter control device in order to control motion of the catheter relative to the examination region.

Attention is first directed to the secondary reference by Strommer et al which discloses an OCT catheter system in conjunction with an x-ray guidance system and processing system which allows for monitoring of the OCT catheter (Col 5 Line 1-58) as well as superimposed image display of the OCT image and x-ray image to control the movement of the catheter in the patient (Col 26 Line 10 – Col 27 Line 25). The x-ray system in conjunction with the OCT system of Strommer et al additionally allow for processing of the x-ray and OCT images by the same processor (Col 25 Line 60- Col 26 Line 10) and then superimposing them using a superimposing processor (Col 5 Line 1-41, Col 26 Line 10- Col 27 line 25 and Col 40 Line 5-55), include a imaging and

navigation system for control of the catheter system (Col 6 Line 15-62), as well as an MPS system which includes the use of magnetic-field generators located both on the external imaging system (Col 17 Line 45- Col 17 Line 15, Col 29 Line 54-Col 30 Line 20) as well as disposed within the catheter system itself for the control and guidance of the catheter element within the body (Col 14 Line 65-Col 15 Line 35). The teaching reference by Strommer et al, while focused on the MPS system and the electromagnetic fields generated and detected by the electromagnets and detectors is silent about the construction of the system, the relative position of the elements, and the directions of the fields generated thereby.

Therefore, attention is also directed to the secondary reference by Hastings et al for the purpose of teaching the placement of the electromagnetic field-generating element in the tip of the catheter (0009) to control and generate an electromagnetic signal measurable by the system (0041 figure 7), and uses multiple magnetic elements (figure 3, 0007-0009 0041), and multiple normal directional coiling (0013-0014) to generate fields in multiple perpendicular directions to the catheter in order to control the electromagnetic fields both generated and received (0038, 0043-0044). The magnet so disposed within the tip (0002) is a permanent magnet, and the procedure uses diagnostic information from an imager (in this case an MRI imager as denoted as suitable in the Strommer et al and Pitriss et al references) in order to enhance the control of the catheter element through the body and acquire further imaging data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the electromagnetic guidance system (including locations and directional

teachings) of Hastings et al with the MPS/OCT guidance system of Strommer et al and the OCT catheter system of Pitris et al for the purpose of facilitating a detailed integrated medical imaging diagnostic procedure of a patient where accurate guidance and integrated imaging create the best diagnostic data for treatment of a patient.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOEL M. LAMPRECHT whose telephone number is (571)272-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571)272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ruth S. Smith/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3737

JML